

# Continental Marine



Spring/Summer 2001/Vol. 25, No. 2

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**Rolling  
Thunder**

**Northern  
Edge**

**Air and Sea  
Show**

**Martial  
Arts  
Training**

**Cornerstone**

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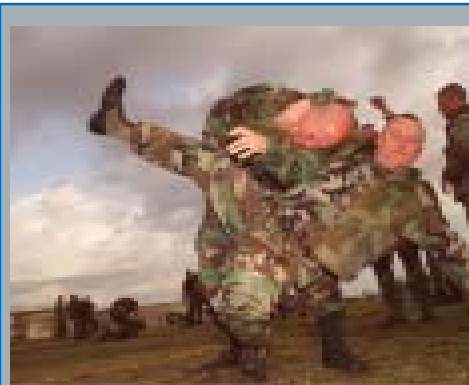
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**Back: Fla.** -- Marines from Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines, prepare to move forward after assaulting the beach at the Air and Sea Show. *Photo by Cpl. Catherin T. Randall*

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### Marine Forces Reserve

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# MARFORRES

COMMAND PAGE

## MarForRes welcomes new commander

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**BELLE CHASSE, La.** — Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy assumed command of Marine Forces Reserve, relieving Maj. Gen. David M. Mize at a ceremony here June 2.

McCarthy, who is only the second Marine reservist to reach the rank of lieutenant general and the first to command MarForRes, previously served as the Director of Reserve Affairs Division, Headquarters Marine Corps.

During the ceremony, McCarthy pledged three commitments. “My first commitment is to the Marine Corps as a whole. I told the Commandant that the Marine Corps Reserve would be ready, willing and able for any mission we

would be assigned.”

“My second commitment is to the over 100,000 Marines and sailors who make up Marine Forces Reserve. For every day I am privileged to serve with you, I will give you my best efforts and full attention.”

“My final commitment is to the people of the great city of New Orleans. I pledge to you that Rosemary and I will do everything in our power to be as good neighbors and citizens to this city as Jane and Dave Mize have been.”

Mize will assume command of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“It has been the highest and most satisfying honor to lead such a noteworthy group of Americans,” said Mize during the ceremony.



Sgt. Keith Myrick

**Maj. Gen. David M. Mize passes the flag to Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy.**

## Commander's guidance: MarForRes must be ready, willing, able



Official USMC photo

**MarForRes** is comprised of two groups of Marines and Sailors – those who are not currently on active duty, and those who are. The former represent the core of our warfighting strength; the latter are the critical enablers who ensure we are always combat ready. Both groups are essential. Neither group could succeed without the other. We are all members of the “first team.” We must all meet “first team” standards.

There is, and can only be, one unit commander. No commander has a “counterpart.”

The title “Marine” seldom needs a modifying adjective. Don’t be a “hyphenated Marine.”

Focus on mobilization readiness. If a task or event makes you and your unit more ready for mobilization and warfighting success, it is worth doing. If it does not meet that standard, look hard to determine if it is really necessary.

Every Marine and Sailor in MarForRes needs to understand how, and with whom, they will deploy and fight after mobilization. Leaders must make it their business to get this information out to all hands.

Nothing we do in peacetime training is worth the loss of

a life. Every Marine is a safety officer at all times. If something seems unsafe, stop the action.

Not all of the things that enhance readiness involve duty in the field. Not all of them are “fun.” Family, medical, and administrative readiness are essential. Readiness failures in these areas will be show-stoppers.

Assess and report readiness realistically. Hidden problems don’t get fixed. We must **be** good, not just look good.

If you don’t have the people you need – because of recruiting, retention or safety failures – you cannot be ready. The unit commander is singularly responsible for personnel readiness.

Be ready for a Mobilization Operational Readiness Deployment Test at all times. Don’t expect much notice. If you are ready for a MORDT, you will be ready to mobilize.

We are an expeditionary force. That means being frugal with the resources entrusted to us. Live and train as you will deploy and fight.

Make sure that every Marine and Sailor who leaves the Force under honorable conditions does so with a sense of satisfaction and with our thanks.

Enjoy, and take pride in, being an important part of Marine Forces Reserve.

# MARFORRES

Command Page

## Sgt. Maj. Richard I. Thornton, Sergeant Major, Marine Forces Reserve

*I have had the opportunity to get out and visit quite a few Marines over the past couple of months. During that time I have had occasion to meet some of the employers of Marines, and I applaud you for continuously telling the Marine Corps story in word and deed. I was recently sent a newspaper article that I want to share with you.*

After 22 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, Northwest Oregon area forester Rudy Frazzini has attained the highest rank an enlisted Marine can achieve -- sergeant major.

After receiving the promotion in February, Frazzini was assigned, in April, as the Sergeant Major of the 4th Landing Support Battalion (LSB), headquartered at Fort Lewis, Wash.

"It's a privilege to be promoted to the highest level in the enlisted ranks," said Frazzini, who works out of Boise Cascade's temporary Independence office.

In his new assignment, Frazzini serves as the senior enlisted advisor to his boss, the Battalion Commander. He provides leadership, guidance, and training to the 1,200 Marines of LSB to meet the Battalion Commander's and the Marine Corps objectives.

Because 4th LSB is spread across the United States, from Seattle to Savannah and Puerto Rico, too, the job requires Frazzini to travel at least one to two weekends a month to meet with Marines at LSB sites, or to attend various training conferences. This is challenging, even for the energetic, organized Frazzini, who balances his new Marine Corps work with his "day job" and family -- Frazzini is married with two grown stepchildren and also just became a grandfather in November.

"Boise has been 'outstanding' about working around his Marine Corps duties, Frazzini said of his employer. "Boise has always supported me in this, making it easier to do both

jobs."

Boise allows its employees 10 military-leave days annually. But if the traveling becomes too big of a hurdle, Frazzini will take vacation or personal days, or reschedule a trip.

One perhaps not so obvious benefit for Boise is that Frazzini's Marine Corps training dovetails nicely with his

forestry work. The management training, logistical experience and communication skills required of Frazzini's Marine Corps job are equally useful in his Boise work, which includes managing some 40,000 acres of timberlands in Oregon's Central Coast Range.

"You have to work harder. You have to optimize your time. I find myself on the plane or in the airport doing my work for Boise, as well as my work for the Marine Corps," Frazzini said. "It is rewarding, but it keeps you away from home a lot."

Despite the drawbacks of frequent traveling, Frazzini loves his new Marine Corps job. "It's great, and the best part of it has to do with the individual Marines. They're great Marines, they're motivated to be there, and they're intelligent, hard workers ... and these Marines are there because they want to be not because they have to be."

*Semper Fidelis*

*Article courtesy of Boise Cascade Corp., Western Oregon Area*



Official USMC Photo

## Retired reserve brigadier general passes away

Continental Marine Staff

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**RANCHO MURIETA, Calif.** —Brigadier General Jerry E. Ward USMCR (Ret.) passed away May 29. Funeral services were held June 4 at Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church here.

Ward was born March 2, 1942, in Lima, Ohio and graduated with honors from Bowling Green State University.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant in August 1966 and was promoted to brigadier general on May 1, 1993.

He served as the assistant wing commander, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing and later the commanding general of 4th MAW.

His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with gold star; Purple Heart; two Single Mission Air Medals and Air Medal with Strike Flight numeral "62."



# MARFORRES

News Line

## MarForRes Marines complete Cpls. Course

Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**NEW ORLEANS** — Twelve Marines from Headquarters, Marine Forces Reserve left their desk jobs and put on their thinking caps for two weeks of instruction in Corporals' Course Class 01-01 here, April 24 through May 4.

"The purpose of the Corporals' Course is to provide corporals and senior lance corporals with instruction and training to enhance their leadership skills through lecture and practical application," said Sgt. Stephen K. Whittlesey, training noncommissioned officer and an instructor for the Corporals' Course.

During the 80 hours of instruction, the Marines received classes in subjects such as close order drill, sword manual, proficiency and conduct marks, the counseling system and uniform inspections. At the end of the course, all Marines who scored 80 percent or higher

on all subject matters were awarded certificates of completion.

"In the Corporals' Course at MarForRes, we promote teamwork and not individuality. We have 12 honor graduates, not one," said Whittlesey.

After completion of the course, Marines walked away with knowledge they could use everyday in their work sections and throughout the rest of their life.

"I thought the course was great. I feel more confident in leading Marines and gained more knowledge about close order drill," said Lance Cpl. Justin C. Chapman, S-1 clerk, Headquarters Battalion, MarForRes.

"The course taught me how to set a good example for junior Marines by my uniform appearance, leadership skills and being physically fit," said Cpl. Samuel Rodriguez, Commercial Ticketing Office clerk, MarForRes.



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

**Cpl. Juan M. Vallejoquezada, G-1, MarForRes stands a uniform inspection during Corporals Course 01-01**



Photo Courtesy of Det B, MWSS-474

## Land Mine Warfare

Marines from Det. B, MWSS-474, MWSSG-47, Chicopee, Mass., went through the Land Mine Warfare course February 9-11 at Marine Combat Engineer School, Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

During the course, the Marines covered such topics as how to breach foreign minefields, destroy nonexplosive obstacles, lay and remove hasty protective minefields and evaluate minefield records and reports.

### Marine rewarded for work with students

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**NEW ORLEANS** — During the April 28 ceremony to honor the cadets of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC program at George Washington Carver High School here one Marine received a huge surprise.

Sgt. Thomas V. Ragster, fiscal chief, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, New Orleans, received a non-commissioned officers sword for the hard work and dedication he put into the ROTC program.

“Getting that sword was definitely the best moment in my Marine Corps career,” said Ragster. “It was a big surprise.”

Throughout the year, Ragster participated in several events which benefitted the students. The events included drill meets, parades and

helping them get a static display set up.

“We need more Marines like Sgt. Ragster,” said Cynthia Willard-Lewis, New Orleans city councilwoman, who presented the sword to Ragster during the ceremony.

“Marines who are willing to take the time to help these young leaders grow.”

During the ceremony attendees had the opportunity to watch the cadet



Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

**New Orleans City Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis presents an NCO sword to Sgt. Thomas V. Ragster, fiscal chief, H&S Co., 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines, during a ceremony April 28.**

Honor Guard and drill team perform as well as hear some inspirational words from the councilwoman.

### MALS-46 deactivated after 57 years of service

Cpl. Richard J. Kulleck

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.** — After 57 years, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 46 has written the final chapter in its distinguished history. The unit was deactivated in May.

First activated March 1, 1944 at El Toro, Calif., MALS-46 began as an active duty unit.

Its main missions were to train pilots for instrument flying during combat and administratively support Marine Base Defense Aircraft Group 46. The unit was deactivated shortly after World

War II on March 15, 1946.

Sixteen years later, MALS-46 was reborn as a Marine reserve unit in Grosse Ile, Mich. They were designated Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 46.

In the winter of 1965, they moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., and then relocated to Los Alamitos, Calif., in the spring of 1967.

While at Los Alamitos, the unit participated in numerous exercises.

Two of these exercises that stand out were Operation Black-Night (July) in New River, N.C., and Operation Golden Slipper (July-August) in Camp

Pendleton, Calif.

These Marines also accomplished a Marine Corps first. “We were the first MALS reserve unit to conduct an exercise overseas,” said Col. Michael N. Daily, former commanding officer, MALS-46. “We deployed outside the continental United States to Hawaii and Japan.”

In 1988, the name was changed to MALS-46. In 1996, the unit moved to MCAS Miramar. MALS-46 was selected for deactivation in the last Quadrennial Defense Review.

## Montford Point Marines visit Marietta

Gunnery Sgt. David Holmes

PWST, H&S Co., 4th FSSG, Marietta, Ga.

**MARIETTA, Ga.** — Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group celebrated Black History Month in February by honoring local members of the Montford Point Marines Association —Mortimer Cox and fellow retired Marine Melvin Shoats—at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center here.

Decades later, the memory of their time in the Marine Corps and service on Iwo Jima is still on the minds of these Montford Point Marines.

“The sand, sea, and the body parts. In five days, maggots would come out of those bodies. Flies would be so big when they’d land, they couldn’t take off again,” said Cox, who was assigned to a medical supply detail during the key Pacific battle of World War II.

Cox and Shoats are a part of an elite group of Marines that joined after President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed the Corps to accept black recruits in 1942.

Cox was in one of the first groups of recruits to report two months later to Montford Point N.C., a segregated training camp that was part of Camp Lejeune. He went on to become a drill instructor. Their record books and enlistment contracts were stamped “colored.”

By 1949, when the military was desegregated, more than 21,000 blacks had trained at the camp. Montford Point was separated from the main base by 12 miles of dense pine for-



Gunnery Sgt. David Holmes

(left to right) Sgt. Marvin L. Kelsey and Gunnery Sgt. Brian Kelly pose with Melvin Shoats and Mortimer Cox, former Montford Point Marines.

est. “Black Marines could not get haircuts on base, and they ate in separate mess halls and had separate seating at the movies,” said Shoats.

Marines and sailors sat in awe, listening to the two heroes tell their stories of hardships and triumphs.

Despite segregation, Cox and Shoats said proudly they never regretted their service. “There is no other way of life for me,” Shoats said. “I love the Marine Corps!”



Drawing by Sgt. Earnest L. Baker Jr.



Painting by Sgt. Earnest L. Baker Jr.

## Sergeant's work gains recognition

The artwork to the left was done by Sgt. Earnest L. Baker Jr., Co. C, 6th Engineer Support Bn., Peoria, Ill. The picture on the left depicts Marines fighting at the battle of Khe Sahn during Vietnam. The one on the right at Tarawa during World War II.

Baker has been drawing since he was in grade school and his Khe Sahn piece is currently being reviewed for display in the National Veteran's Museum in Chicago.

Along with these works Baker has painted several murals on the walls of the reserve center in Peoria depicting bulldozers and other pieces of heavy equipment.



# MARFORRES

News Line

## Marines aide in relief to earthquake victims

Capt. Francisco J. Rodriguez, USN  
U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Vieques Det.

### NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS, Puerto Rico

**Rico** — Marines from 3rd Longshoreman Platoon, 2nd Beach and Terminal Operations Company, 4th Landing Support Battalion and Marine Forces South, along with personnel from U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, participated in a humanitarian mission to assist thousands of earthquake victims in El Salvador.

Over 25,000 pounds of disaster relief supplies were retrieved from a storage facility in the town of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, loaded on military vehicles and transported to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads airfield.

The desperately needed relief supplies were loaded and flown on a U.S. Navy C-130 transport plane to El Salvador.

A local Christian ministry, “Ira de Pedro 2:9,” requested assistance from the Corps to help in palletizing and transporting the cargo to El Salvador.

The disaster relief provisions included medicine, personal hygiene supplies, clothing, medical equipment, tents, and food.

The relief supplies were collected from communities located on the eastern section of Puerto Rico, where concerned citizens worked together to gather supplies so desperately needed after the severe earthquake.

The generous efforts of the Corps



Photo courtesy of 3rd Longshoreman Plt.  
**Marines from 3rd Longshoreman Plt. get supplies ready for earthquake victims in El Salvador.**

and USNAVSO in collecting, loading, and working the logistics of transporting 25,000 pounds of disaster relief items served as testament of ongoing efforts to relieve suffering and saving lives.

## TOW Plt. 23rd Marines hosts armed forces day

Continental Marine Staff  
Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**NEW IBERIA, La.** — Marines from Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) Missile Platoon, 23rd Marines, Broussard, La., gave the public a chance to look at and ask questions about the equipment military personnel use daily as they sponsored an



Photo courtesy of TOW Plt. 23rd Marines  
**A Marine from TOW Plt., 23rd Marines lets a youngster get a feel for the M-2 .50 cal. machine gun during a static display at Armed Forces Day.**

Armed Forces Day at the Acadiana Regional Airport here, May 1.

The Marines, along with members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and NASA, displayed various weapons and aircraft including helicopters, rescue boats and machine guns.

“Armed Forces Day is a way to get the community involved in the military,” said Sgt. John Martinez, TOW Plt., 23rd Marines. “It allows the kids to come and actually see an aircraft.”

Armed Forces Day was established



Photo courtesy of TOW Plt. 23rd Marines  
**A Marine from TOW Plt. 23rd Marines show off a TOW missile system to a child during the Armed Forces Day.**

in 1950 and is celebrated on the third Saturday in May.

This regional celebration was held early to avoid conflicting with bigger celebrations in places like New Orleans.



## MC Band New Orleans plays San Antonio

Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**SAN ANTONIO** — The Marine Corps Band New Orleans and Marine Forces Reserve Color Guard received a Texas-sized welcome while participating in one of America's truly great festivals, Fiesta San Antonio, during the last week of April.

Because the festival originated in honor of military heroes, military units still highlight the more than 100-year-old event.

Back in 1891, a group of women decorated carriages and paraded down the streets of San Antonio in front of the Alamo throwing flower blossoms to honor the heroes from the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto. This was known as the "Battle of Flowers" parade and, over the years, it has grown into an elaborate 10-day festival.

Marine Corps Band, New Orleans has performed in parades during Fiesta San Antonio for the last few years, and many of the band members say there is nothing like it.

"When our color guard marches down the streets in front of the spectators, people actually stand up, take their covers off and show respect to the colors," said Cpl. Emilie B.

Bogdan, a French horn player. "That's just not something you see often with civilians, and it makes you feel good. I felt very appreciated in San Antonio."

Some of the band members, including Sgt. Keith A. Benedict, a trombone player, had performed in San Antonio a few times before, and were not as surprised by the crowd's reactions, but were still just as pleased by it.

The Marine band and color guard marched in two parades during the festival.

The sun was hot on the three and a half mile route, but a nice breeze and the cheers of the crowd kept the Marines cool and motivated.

"I look forward to this event year after year," said Benedict. "People in Texas just seem so patriotic and proud of their military that you can feel it in the air. San Antonio loves its Marines. There is a reserve recon unit here that has an excellent relationship with the community."

The fond memories of their time in San Antonio made the 11-hour bus trip back to New Orleans a little easier for the Marines.

"It just makes you swell up with pride, thinking how much these people appreciate you," said Benedict.

## Band takes time to play for local children

Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**SAN ANTONIO** — Members of the Marine Corps Band, New Orleans treated the young residents and staff of the Roy Maas Youth Alternatives Center here to a concert of patriotic music April 25.

The band was in San Antonio for Fiesta San Antonio, an annual festival dating back 110 years, and performed for children at the youth center as they have for the past few years.

"This is my fourth time going to San Antonio with the band, and I always love performing at the youth center," said Sgt. Keith A. Benedict, trombone player. "It makes you feel really good."

Besides playing music for the children, the Marines also acted as mentors.

"It's good for the children to see such positive role models," said Kurt W. Haynes, a volunteer at the center. "It pleases me to have the Marines visit the center."

Haynes believes the benefits go both ways.

"It's very rewarding for anyone who gets a chance to do things for these children," said Haynes. "It makes you feel good, knowing you're making a positive impact."

Some of the children said they enjoyed the concert and some were even inspired by it.

"It really inspired me, because I'm

in my middle school band right now, and it was really cool seeing a professional band perform," said Emily Masters.

Some of the children were more impressed by the fact the bandsmen were Marines than musicians.

"I want to be a drill instructor in the Marine Corps," said Eddie M. Quezada. "That is a really big goal for me right now."

Listening to Quezada talk about her plans for the future, it seems as though the Marines may have helped not only the children, but the future of the Corps as well, by encouraging and inspiring motivated individuals to make a future serving and protecting our nation in the Marines.

## Marines help increase peace in California

Sgt. Maj. Victor Escobedo

HMH-769, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** — Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769, Marine Aircraft Group 46, participated in the second annual Increase the Peace Day, April 20.

This marks the second year Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 46, Detachment B, have participated in the event. Last year approximately 650 students gathered at Challenger Middle School in Lake Los Angeles.

This year, the event was moved to the Antelope Valley College baseball field, due largely to rapid growth in support for the program which resulted in participation and attendance of over 2,500 students from all local schools in the valley.

The brainstorm of Challenger's own educator, Bruce Galler, has grown with incredible community support. At the national level, Congressman McKeon has introduced a resolution to the U.S. Congress, encouraging students all over the U.S. to host similar annual events on April 20 at their own schools.

The event coordinator, Monica Flores, once again asked the Marines to participate and help highlight the importance of school safety. This year the event marks the second anniversary of the nation's deadliest school shooting.

At 11:40 a.m. the CH-53E Super Stallion's aircrew, Lt. Col. Douglass Burpee, Maj. Warren "Boo-Boo" Bair, Staff Sgt. John Militello and Lance Cpl. Scott Jordan circled the



Photo Courtesy of HMH-769

**A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter circles around a human peace sign during an Increase the Peace ceremony at Antelope Valley College, Calif.**

2,500 plus students who formed the double-circled human peace sign highlighted by white t-shirts.

The unit's support for this flyover event adds its reputation that local Marines continue to provide support to the surrounding community.

## Marines star on JAG

Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769, Marine Aircraft Group 46, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., participated in the filming of a couple of scenes for an episode of JAG titled "To Walk on Wings". The episode which aired in April, dealt with some of the controversy surrounding the MV-22 Osprey.

The unit provided 15 Marines as extras and a CH-53E for a cabin shoot. The extras were placed on leave for a day and were paid \$100.00 each. They received autographs from the stars and the filming crew had nothing but good things to say about the Marines.

(right) Marines pose for a group photo with actors David James Elliott and Catherine Bell.



Photo Courtesy of HMH-769

# MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

## MAG-42 gives employers glimpse of reserves

Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

### **BELLE CHASSE, La.**—

Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 42, Detachment C, opened their hanger to members of the Illinois Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for a static display of UH-1N Huey helicopters and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters here, March 28.

"The purpose of the static display was to give employers an idea of what their employees, as reserve Marines, do the one weekend out of a month and the two weeks out of a year," said Capt. Jo-

seph M. Courey, assistant operations officer, MAG-42, Det. C. "At the end of the day, the employers know how the Marines train and help maintain equipment, and that their help counts."

"You see them disappear for weekends and you don't know what they're doing. When you actually see what they do, you know their role and purpose in protecting and serving our country," said Rick T. Gengenbacher, public affairs officer, Illinois Veterans Home, Quincy, Ill., and member of Illinois ESGR.



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Cpl. Bryan E. Campbell, MAG-42 crew chief, talks with a member of Illinois ESGR about a UH-1N Huey helicopter.

## Safety director addresses issues for reservists

Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

Col. Leif Larson, Director of Safety, Headquarters Marine Corps discussed safety issues, concerns, new plans and goals for this year in the reserves during his visit to MarForRes, April 28.

**As director of safety division, why do you think safety is important for not only the Marine Corps, but also for reservists?**

"I think safety is important because we preserve our most important resource, our people. By practicing safety we (the Marine Corps) also reduce the number of mishaps and injuries and preserve equipment."

**What are your key concerns of safety for reservists?**

"My key concerns of safety for reservists are ensuring that safety and risk management training is being accomplished. In return this will help prevent mishaps, injuries and deaths."

**What are you doing to improve safety?**

"To improve safety, I am ensuring all safety officers

and managers are implementing the Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan."

**What is the Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan?**

"The Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan is a manual containing safety instructions for Marines in order to reduce mishaps while increasing readiness and combat effectiveness."

**Is the Safety Campaign Plan working?**

"The plans that I have implemented are partially working. Off-duty private motor vehicle fatalities have decreased by almost 50 percent over the first six months of this fiscal year. We've killed 14 less Marines through the middle of April this year compared to our five year average during the same time period. However, whether we can continue to do as well as we've done over the 101 days of summer, that remains to be seen. We can continue to do as well by implementing the plan."

**What are some safety goals you plan to reach this fiscal year?**

"Often it's the drive from home to the reserve site when fatalities occur. My goal is reduce private motor vehicle off-duty fatalities by 25 percent this year."

## 3/25 utilizes Quantico training facilities

Sgt. Daryl G. Sanford

Marine Corps Base Quantico Va.

**QUANTICO, Va.** –Through a persistent downpour, Marines from Co. L, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines spent their monthly training here, May 18-19. During the two days, the reserve leathernecks from Columbus, Ohio, trained in several areas at Camp Barrett as well as at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility.

Quantico was chosen for this exercise because of the close proximity of its training areas.

“Everything is close together and designed for training,” said Capt. Julia Hunt, peacetime wartime support team officer-in-charge, Co. L. “Some of the bases we are used to training in are so huge, and the training areas are spread apart. Quantico is perfectly designed for training.”

Their mission actually began late in the evening May 17 when they loaded their gear onto buses and “deployed” from Columbus, traveling all night to Camp Barrett.

In order to pump themselves up once they got there, the Marines were pitted against each other in a three-event contest to determine the best fire team.

The first event was a trial of strength and endurance. This test consisted of a race through the obstacle

course and a run through the endurance course, both located at The Basic School. The second was a test of tactics, held at the night lab course, to find out which fire team had better tactical skills. The final was a test of skills on the land navigation course.

The purpose of the exercise was not only to heighten motivation, but also to boost the Marines’ combat skills and enhance unit readiness, said Hunt.

After the fire team competition, the company spent a rainy evening at Landing Zone 7, huddled in their sleeping bags and field jackets. The following day, the Marines traveled to the MOUT facility to train with simulated ammunitions in assaulting and defending in an urban environment.

“This drill was pretty demanding, with the fire team competition and the MOUT training,” said Lance Cpl. Jeff Cisek, rifleman, 2nd Platoon. “Training with the simulated ammunitions is a true test. Instead of playing like kids in the woods, the training was more realistic. You knew when you got shot.”

With the simulated ammunition system, the upper receiver of the M-16



Sgt. Daryl G. Sanford

**Two Marines from Co. L, 3rd Bn., 25th Marines, rush past a stairwell in the rain and mud during urban assault training at the Quantico MOUT facility.**

is modified to fire small paint ball rounds that mark the person shot.

“With this gear, there is no more ‘I shot you first; you shot me first,’ added Sgt. Jeremy Resor, 2nd Platoon Commander. “You have to train like it is real, which is what we need.”

This type of training is different than their usual training, said Hunt.

“Normally, most of our training is geared to operating in a cold weather environment,” she said. “This is another feat we can add to our list of skills.”



### Religious ministry update: new Force Order

A new Command Religious Program Standard Operating Procedures for Marine Forces Reserve was completed in May 2001 and may be accessed via the MarForRes website. Force Order P1730.1A updates and clarifies how religious ministry is provided, in-

cluding guidance on how chaplains and religious program specialists work with Marine reserve units as well as mobilization preparation, training and logistics.

A new toll-free number, **1-866-266-7159**, lets religious ministry personnel, key volunteers and commands contact the Force Chaplain’s office directly.



# MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

## HMH-772 redefines term 'Hollywood Marine'

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**MONTREAL** — When most Marines hear the term "Hollywood Marine" they think of someone who graduated basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, but for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772, Marine Aircraft Group 49, Willow Grove, Pa., the term has an entirely new meaning.

These leathernecks had the opportunity to act as extras for the film "The Sum of All Fears" which was filmed on location here, April 18-21.

The unit received the request from Headquarters Marine Corps for two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters to be in the movie along with 30 Marines, said Gunnery Sgt. Michael P. Frey, dynamic component mechanic, HMH-772. Since the film was already using the unit's helicopters,

they asked for their Marines to be the ones playing the extras.

The Marines were used in three of the scenes for the movie. In the first scene, two snatch teams, equaling 30 Marines, flew in by helicopter, set up a perimeter and rescued the President of the United States, played by James Cromwell, and the Director of the CIA, Marcus Cabot, played by Morgan Freeman, from a burning vehicle.

"Watching those Marines fly in and pull the president out of that vehicle made the patriotism well up inside me," said Stratton Leopold, producer. "It was wonderful."

During the second scene, a few of the Marines on the team that rescued the president exited the aircraft to render a salute as the commander in chief left the helicopter and headed to his plane, Air Force One.

In their final scene, the Marines

acted as security around a simulated Andrews Air Force Base as the CH-53E, carrying the president flew in and landed.

"The Marines did a wonderful job," said Leopold. "They had such great enthusiasm and professionalism and knew exactly what to do during the scenes."

"It was so nice to have people who knew what they were doing out there," said Cromwell. "It makes the picture that much better."

Not only did these Marines impress the crewmembers working on the movie, they seemed to have a great time doing it.

"The best thing about being here for me, was getting the chance to rush out of the helicopter and go to the limo to rescue James Cromwell," said Lance Cpl. Bill Barrilli, nuclear, biological and chemical specialist, HMH-772.

## MarForRes names Marines, sailors of year



Official USMC Photo

Sgt. Jason C. Wilkinson, Marine Corps Reserve Support Command has been selected as the MarForRes Active Duty Marine of the Year.



Official USMC photo

Sgt. Lisa D. Graham, Military Police Co. C, H&S Bn., 4th FSSG, has been selected as the MarForRes Reserve Marine of the Year.



Official USMC photo

Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Reddick, 2nd Bn., 23rd Marines, has been selected as the MarForRes Active Duty Sailor of the Year.



Official USMC photo

Petty Officer 1st Class Raul Machin-Harrison, 4th Medical Bn., 4th FSSG has been selected as the MarForRes Reserve Sailor of the Year.



Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

**A Marine from CSSD-44 stands as a road guard during Rolling Thunder.**



Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

**A Marine from CSSD-44 scans the area while on a resupply mobile detachment.**

# ROLLING TH

## Reserve CSSD supports 10th Ma

**Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon**

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**FORT BRAGG, N.C.** – One key element to every military exercise is combat service support. For the past four years, 10th Marines has looked to the reserves to support their regimental fire exercise.

More than 700 reserve Marines from across the country, all members of the 4th Force Service Support Group will come here to form Combat Service Support Detachment 44, for exercise Rolling Thunder. The detachment will provide 10th Marines, an active duty artillery regiment from Camp Lejeune, N.C., with all their support needs March 6-April 13.

“This exercise was critical for the reserves because it allowed us to simulate a deployment overseas,” said Maj. Jay Rodne, 4th Landing Support Battalion, Fort Lewis, Wash., operations officer for the exercise. “It gave the Marines a chance to prepare themselves and their units for any deployment if one should arise.

“It also gives us a chance to work hand-in-hand with our active duty brothers,” said Rodne. By working with the active side it gives us a chance to build trust and confidence in each other and allows us to

have seamless integration between the active and reserve components.

The CSSD-44 Marines covered every angle of support, from providing supplies to the Marines in the field to moving their M-198 Howitzers by helicopter.

“Being out here gave us a chance to get hands on experience of what we would be doing in a combat environment,” said Cpl. Richard Resos, combat service support center clerk, 4th Landing Support Bn., Fort Lewis, Wash. “It also gives crucial Military Occupational Specialty training.”

The average day for a CSSD-44 Marine began anywhere between 4-6 a.m., depending on what their section had to accomplish for the day. Some of the daily tasks of the CSSD included servicing and making repairs to vehicles like the five-ton truck and High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (Hummvee). Others conducted supply convoys, called mobile detachments, to re-supply the different elements of 10th Marines. Along with the mobile detachments, a helicopter support team from the CSSD was able to hook up Howitzers to a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter and move them from position to position.

But MOS training wasn’t the only thing going on in the CSSD, many of the Marines had the opportunity to get to a rifle range and practice firing their M-16A2s as well as a few of the crew served weapons such as the M2 .50 caliber machine gun and the MK-19 machine gun.

“We had some great weapons training out here,” said Rodne. “Not only did the Marines get to fire the small

# HUNDER

Marines in every way possible



Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

**Bulk fuel Marines roll up a hose after a refueling mission.**



Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

**A grader tries to smooth out the terrain around CSSD-44's area.**



Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

**Marines from the Helicopter Support Team prepare an M198 155mm Howitzer to be lifted by a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter**

arms and crew served weapons, many of them had the chance to break in their new field protective gas masks while firing."

Another benefit of the reserve Marines coming to Rolling Thunder was the chance for young noncommissioned of-

ficers to get leadership experience.

"This was a great chance for our young leaders to hone the skills they need to lead troops in a combat environment," said Rodne.

"Being active duty before I joined the reserves, I know this was some re-



Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

**A Marine provides security for a vehicle while on a mobile detachment.**

ally good training out here," said Resos. "Anyone who thinks the reserves doesn't train as hard as the active duty should have been out here to see what was going on."

CM

# 3/14 rains steel on Bragg targets

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**FORT BRAGG, N.C.** – The sound of thunderous booms could be heard all over the base here, as Marines from 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, honed their basic field cannoneer skills, during exercise Rolling Thunder, a regimental live-fire exercise conducted by 10th Marines, an active duty artillery regiment from Camp Lejeune, N.C.

While Rolling Thunder was a month-long exercise, the Marines from 3rd Bn., 14th Marines were here for two weeks conducting their annual training March 24-April 6.

“We treated this exercise as if it were a real world call-up,” said Capt. Arthur M. Czapka, executive officer, Btry. I, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines, Reading, Pa. “It began in the reserve center with everyone getting their gear, supplies, and weapons. We then loaded onto buses

and made the journey here.”

“Once we were here, we loaded up and headed to the field for our live-fire training,” added Czapka.

Rolling Thunder was set up in three operational phases, beginning with the battery-level operations, then moving on to battalion-level and finally combining with 10th Marines for regimental operations.

“This exercise was great in that it allowed us to become more efficient at moving, shooting and communicating at all levels of command,” said Capt. Konstantine Zoganas, battalion fire direction officer, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines, Philadelphia, Pa.

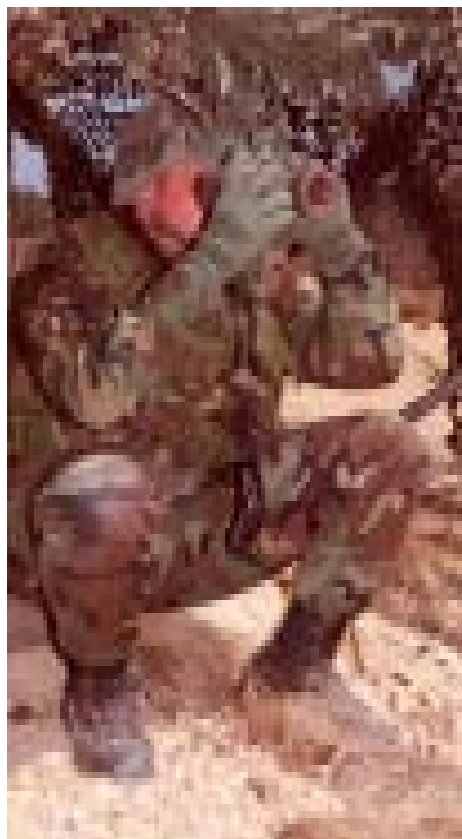
While sending rounds down range is primarily what artillerymen do, these leathernecks had the opportunity to do it several different ways.

The first way was through indirect fire, where the Marines were shooting at targets they couldn’t see a few miles away. The second way was through direct fire. During a direct fire shoot the



Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

**Marines from Btry. I prepare their gun for a fire mission during the indirect fire portion of the exercise.**



Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

**Sgt. David DellaValle, Btry. G, identifies a target before sending in a fire mission.**



Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

**A Marine puts a fuse on a high explosive round.**

Marines lower the tube of the Howitzer and fire at targets directly in front of them. The third way didn’t involve high explosive rounds of the M-198. The Marines fired their crew-served weapons on the various ranges here as the final means of getting rounds down range.

“We got some great training in all the aspects of supporting fire,” said Sgt. David DellaValle, forward observer, Btry. G, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines, West Trenton, N.J.

“For us, coming to Bragg is like the best show on earth,” said Czapka. “The training we received here was very realistic, it is just unfortunate it was only two weeks long.”







Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

An M-198 155mm Howitzer from Btry. H fires during the regimental operational phase.



Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marines from Btry. I set up their position defenses after arriving at new position.

## Unmanned aerial vehicles aide 3/14

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

### FORT BRAGG, N.C. –

*“FDC this is FO adjust fire, over.” “FO this is FDC adjust fire, out.” “FDC grid 304765, over.” FO grid 304765, out.” “FDC two tanks in the open, over.” “FO that’s two tanks in the open, out.” Then about 30 seconds later, “FO shot, over.” “FDC shot, out.” “FO splash, over.” FDC splash, out.”*

Communications like these can normally be heard during a live-fire training exercise between the forward observers and the Marines at the fire direction control center, but during exercise Rolling Thunder, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines used a different type of forward observer.

Instead of a few Marines dug in on top of a hill somewhere, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle controlled by the Marines from Marine Fixed Wing Unmanned Vehicle Squadron 2 (VMU-2), Cherry Point, N.C., gave the calls for fire.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is a remote controlled, single propeller plane with a wing span of 17-feet and an overall length of 14-feet. Inside the body of the plane is a camera which allows the pilots to see and identify targets, according to Cpl. Tim Humbert, team noncommissioned officer, VMU-2.

“This was an excellent training opportunity for us,” said Capt. Konstantine Zoganas, battalion fire direction officer, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines, Philadelphia, Pa. “There aren’t many units who get the opportunity to train with this equipment.”

Along with calling for artillery fire, the UAV can also be used for reconnaissance missions, search and rescue, and battle damage assessment.

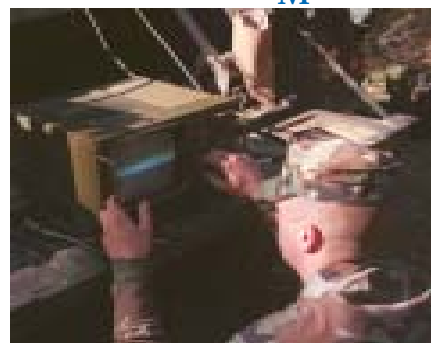
For this mission, the UAV, which was flying at around 6,000 to 8,000 feet, was used to identify targets. Once a target was spotted, the FDC was notified with the grid coordinates and type of target. They then took that data and turned it into a fire mission, which was

sent to the Marines on the gun line.

Once the Marines on the gun line blasted their round toward the target, the UAV was used to adjust fire.

“After using the UAV, I think it is equal to, if not better than, a forward observer,” said Zoganas. “A forward observer has a limited view depending on where he is at, but a UAV, being in the air, has the ability to cover a lot more area.”

“I think the UAV’s capabilities are underestimated,” said Zoganas. “It is a great weapon to have on the modern battlefield.” **CM**



Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Cpl. Tim Humbert, VMU-2, adjusts the view from the camera on the vehicle.



Lance Cpl. Trevor Geter mans his post at sunset.

Sgt. Chet Decker



Lance Cpl. Adolfo Saldana keeps an eye on his Cuban counterparts, while manning his post along the fenceline.

Sgt. Chet Decker

# PARAN

Sgt. Chet Decker

Marine Forces Atlantic, Norfolk, Va.

## NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba —

The stillness of the night can play tricks on a Marine as he stands post atop a tower three to seven stories above the ground.

The thousands of Marines stationed here over the years know that, and reservists from 23rd Marines, San Bruno, Calif., are finding that out, as well. A platoon of Marines from the regiment, who trained in Norfolk, Va., before deploying here, assisted the active duty Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) Company platoons in securing the base's border with communist Cuba.

Since the Cold War is over, many of the Marine outposts near the 17.5 miles of fence line separating this base from Cuba are no longer manned. This can leave a Marine alone on post miles from the next Marine, able to communicate only by radio. It can make for a long day, but it can make for an even longer night.

"When you stand post at night, at first your body just isn't used to it," said Lance Cpl. Benjamin Lancaster, of Pleasanton, Calif. "You can start hearing things or even seeing things; it's kind of like dreaming while you're awake. You have to remain alert, because it gets kind of spooky when you're out here. The MOPs (Marine outposts) are far away, and you're by yourself."

The Marines' mission is to guard the fence line and make sure no one gets in or out. The Cuban military has the same mission, its soldiers standing atop towers well within viewing distance of the Marines. Each side is lined with barbed-wire fences complete with concertina wire. The area between the

# Name of game 'on line' at Gitmo

fence lines is known as “no man’s land,” an undeveloped, landmine-rich strip of land, as much as one-half mile across in some places.

Marines who have stood enough shifts on the watchtowers know that iguanas, rats and even deer have met their ends by setting off mines buried during the Cold War. Unfortunately, in the past, so have humans.

Occasionally, a Cuban national seeking political asylum will try to slip through the fence to the U.S. naval base, hoping it can lead to a different way of life. Often times, these Cuban asylum seekers try to swim down river onto base; others swim down the harbor’s coastline. Eventually those who make it past Cuban soldiers and shark-infested waters are spotted by Marines and taken into custody, where they are turned over to base officials for questioning and processing.

The 23rd Marines infantrymen have taken asylum seekers into custody on more than one occasion since arriving here in early March.

“The training we received in Norfolk has prepared us to detect and detain these (asylum seekers) and then pass them on to the appropriate officials to handle the situation,” said Maj. Christopher Dixon, the platoon commander.

The platoon’s non commissioned officers patrol the fence line and stand ready to react to any situation, able to arrive at any outpost within minutes. The platoon’s two officers and one staff non commissioned officer lead the platoon and run the headquarters areas. That leaves the platoon’s junior Marines to man the outposts.

The Marine Corps places a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of this platoon’s lance corporals, said Dixon.

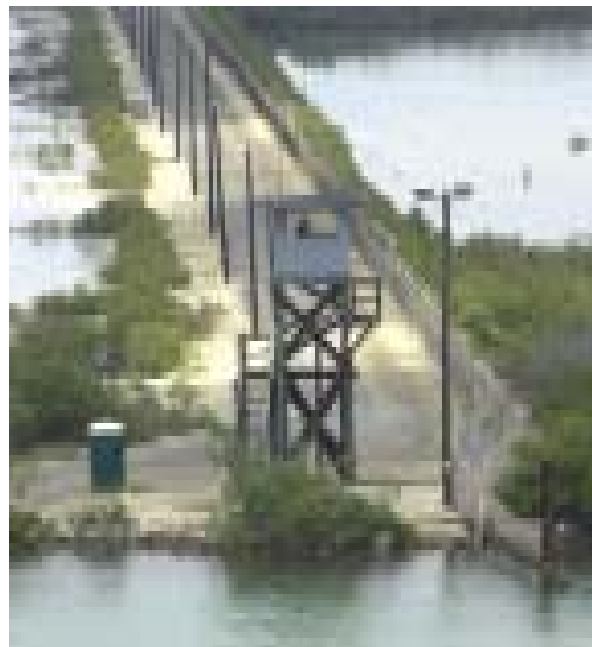
“The NCOs and Marines have per-

formed admirably,” said the Stewartsville, N.J. native. “The actual execution of the mission has been done by that individual Marine, that lance corporal standing on the MOP out there with nothing between him and the perimeter. Whatever situations arise, it’s the lance corporal on the scene that is usually going to have to handle the situation initially until response forces can show up to assist him.”

Recently, a Marine standing post at night spotted an asylum seeker and told other Marines he swore the Cuban was saying his name before he could find him with his night vision goggles. Later the Marine realized it could have only been the night playing tricks on him.

“It can get monotonous when you’re on post and nothing is happening,” said Cpl. Joseph Johnson, of Winnfield, La. “You can sit there and hear animals in the brush and swear they’re people sneaking around. A lot of Cuban asylum seekers hide out, because they’re not sure where they are and who we are. They’re not sure if they’ve gotten all the way over or come up on the wrong side, which can be a bad thing.”

Marines can see the Cuban soldiers on their outposts observing them right back during daylight hours. Johnson said sometimes a Cuban soldier will pretend to throw a baseball, hoping the Marine will acknowledge him by pretending to hit it back. Such actions are strictly forbidden. Each outpost has a sign reminding Marines that



Sgt. Chet Decker

**A Marine mans his outpost along the fenceline here, with communist Cuba across the wire.**

everything they do is being observed, and they should act professionally - like Marines.

Near the fence line, there are several abandoned and crumbling outposts, along with a reinforced trench line dug many years ago. There are even stories of haunted outposts, passed on from one platoon to the other.

“One of the Marines on post could see a ghost walking up the stairs, and each step she would get older and older,” said Lancaster. “I think a lot of stories are made up, but that kind of stuff can keep you on your toes. You have to have discipline, because even though this can be boring at times, it’s real. They have weapons over there, and they’re watching you, so you have to be ready.”



# Northern Edge

## RECON TAKES ARCTIC PLUNGE

Army Private Karima L. Mares

Northern Edge Joint Information Bureau

**SAXMAN, Alaska** – Twenty-two Marines from Company C, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, San Antonio, Texas, received acclimatization and dry suit swimming familiarization training here, March 22, in support of Northern Edge 2001.

The training was essential to their mission because the company is used to the warm waters of Texas that call for the use of wet suits, not the dry suits required for cold-water diving.

“This training helped us reach our

goal, which is to be a versatile unit that can accomplish its mission anywhere, anytime,” said Gunnery Sgt. Edward Cruz, Co. C, 4th Recon Bn. “A lot of us have never worn dry suits before or swam in water this cold, so this is a huge step.”

The Marines prepared for Northern Edge by swimming every chance they had and making sure all Marines obtained the highest level of swim qualification, which is Combatant Water Survival Qualified.

“We made sure our Marines were well prepared and trained properly be-

fore coming to Northern Edge,” said Cruz. “We wanted to make sure they had enough comfort to swim and at the same time maintain their composure in arctic water conditions.”

“The water may have been cold, but once I was in it, there was nothing unfamiliar about it,” said 1st Sgt. Rosendo Reyes, Co. C, 4th Recon. Bn. “I like to call it the initial shock swim. We got in the water and made sure our buddies were good to go and comfortable. Safety remains our number one affair.”

This training not only enhanced the Marines’ abilities to use different gear and swim in unfamiliar waters, but also served as practice for missions they had later in the exercise.

“It’s not everyday you train in a great place like

### Participating units

Co. C, 4th Recon - San Antonio  
Co. E, 4th Recon - Anchorage, Alaska  
LAV/AD Btry., 4th LAR - Camp Pendleton, Calif  
VMGR-234 - Ft. Worth, Texas  
VMGR-452 - Newburgh, New York




Army Sgt. Terrence L. Hayes

**Cpl. Marco Benavides, Co. C, 4th Recon Bn., helps his buddy put his flippers on properly, during water orientation training Mar. 22.**



Army Sgt. Terrence L. Hayes

**Staff Sgt. Mark Agonis, Co. C, 4th Recon Bn., moves in with his gear from the arctic waters in Ketchikan Mar. 22, in support of Northern Edge 2001.**

Alaska,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Todd Harty, corpsman, Co. C, 4th Recon Bn. “Alaska truly is a great training facility.” 



# LAVs adapt to extreme temperatures

Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

Northern Edge Joint Information Bureau

## EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska

— A puff of smoke erupts from the exhaust pipe as the diesel engine of the \$4.5 million Marine Corps Light Armored Vehicle comes to life. A rumble is heard and felt as the heavily armored machine drives off to provide low air defense for soldiers during Alaska's largest joint exercise, Northern Edge 2001.

Eighty-three Marines from LAV/Air Defense platoon from Camp Pendelton, Calif., began arriving in Alaska in February to begin preparation for the platoon's 28-day deployment here.

The first task before them was to attend cold-weather training at the Army's Black Rapids Training Site here.

"We received a four-day indoctrination into survival techniques, treatments, signs and symptoms of cold-weather injuries, basic cold-weather hygiene, and learned about the necessary clothes that a person should wear," said Capt. Wayne R. Zuber, commanding officer LAV-AD Plt. "In cold weather, you have to be sure you are taking care of your Marines. I'm very happy that

we haven't had a single cold-weather injury. I'll attribute that to the vehicle commanders and the sergeants who are making sure the Marines are staying warm and drinking plenty of water."

After completion of the cold-weather training, the Marines took to the road in their 15-ton LAVs, to learn about cold-weather driving tactics. The conditions were a big shock for many of the Southern California Marines, as some had never seen, let alone driven on snow or ice before, said Zuber.

After some roadway driving, they put chains on four of the vehicle's eight tires and began driving off-road in much harsher conditions. During the training, they purposefully got the vehicles stuck several times to practice recovery techniques.

For this particular deployment, the platoon brought six LAVs with them; four to be used for air defense, one as a maintenance vehicle and one as a command and control post where the section leader keeps the air defense crews informed of incoming aircraft.

"It's a pretty simple set-up. In the command post vehicle, there's a map on one side and several radios in front of the section leader. He's monitoring all the radio traffic and can give the crews in the air defense vehicles some idea as to where the aircraft might be and what their heading is," said Zuber.

Each air defense LAV is equipped with two stinger missile pods, each holding four missiles and eight additional missiles for re-loading. It also has a 25mm Gattling Gun that



Senior Airman Bruno

**Sgt. John C. Bausch sits atop an LAV during Northern Edge 2001.**

can fire up to 1,800 rounds per minute, all available for low altitude air defense.

Since their arrival, the Marines have been in the field almost every day, conducting either their own platoon training or providing low air defense for Northern Edge missions.

When supporting Northern Edge, they covered two flight windows each day; one in the afternoon and one in the evening. They were involved in an average of 18 engagements per mission.

In addition to supporting Northern Edge, the Marines also evaluated several pieces of equipment while in the extreme temperatures of Alaska — a new heating unit for the LAVs and new bayonets.

"The manufacturer found out we were the only Marines training in a cold-weather environment anywhere in world right now, so they asked us to do some cold-weather evaluation for them," said Zuber. "We simply got the parameters they wanted the bayonets tested by and put them through the paces required."

"It has been a great opportunity for everyone," added Zuber. "The pilots are using us for training aids because how often do they get to train against a ground based air defense system? We are using them as a training aid too; because it's not very often that we have planes actually aggressing us. Everybody is getting something out of it. We would certainly love to come back next year."

CM



Senior Airman Bruno

**Cpl. Xanius S. Patterson from Light Armored Vehicle Air Defense Btry., Camp Pendelton, Calif., attaches snow chains to an LAV at a stop while cold-weather training, during Northern Edge 2001.**

# Marines take Ft. Lauderdale by storm

Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

## FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

— Reserve and active component Marines from Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces Atlantic, came together here for a total force effort May 5-6, at the 7th annual Air and Sea Show presented by WPLG Channel 10.

The two forces combined for a coordinated heliborne and surface amphibious assault demonstration. This included an amphibious reconnaissance of the beach, and special insertion and extraction (SPIE) flyby, followed by the actual assault and then a tactical withdrawal from the area. After the withdrawal, the Marines set up a static display of their equipment for the spectators estimated to be more than four million, during the course of the weekend.

"The purpose of the show was to demonstrate the Navy/Marine team and the Marine Corps task force's surface and air capabilities by combining an



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marines prepare to move forward after assaulting the beach.



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

An assault amphibious vehicle makes its way to the beach, during the show.

aviation combat element (ACE) from 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and a ground combat element (GCE) designated by MarForRes," said Lt. Col. George C. Aucoin, Marine Air Ground Task Force commander. "This task force is not unusual. It represents the total force concept by combining active duty and reserve Marines."

Not only did troops get to show off their amphibious assault capabilities, they also had a lot of fun doing it. The Marines received a round of applause from millions of viewers when the five assault amphibious vehicles came up onto the Fort Lauderdale Beach, opened, and 25 Marines rushed out to secure the area.

"It was a fun experience. This was something you don't get to do everyday as a grunt," said Lance Cpl. Ben Greene, fire team leader, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines, Montgomery, Ala. "Being watched by so many people makes you feel proud."

While the show demonstrated the Marines Corps assault capabilities, some thought the Air and Sea show was ample



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Combat swimmers run along the beach after swimming ashore.

opportunity for recruiting as well.

"I thought it was a great opportunity for Marine Corps recruiting," said Cpl. David L. Brancel, food preparer, Co. B, 4th Assault Amphibian Bn., Jacksonville, Fla. "Something we demonstrated today might have inspired someone to join the Corps."

With the job complete, Marines left Fort Lauderdale with a sense of accomplishment.

"I like the atmosphere. The response we received from the crowd," said Sgt. Eddie C. Lawrence, platoon guide, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines, Montgomery, Ala. "It was a great training experience for us."





Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

## Participating Units

Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines  
 Det, Co. B, 4th AAB  
 Det, Co. C, 4th Recon Bn.  
 Det, 4th ANGLICO  
 Det, 3rd Force Recon Co.  
 Det, 4th Force Recon Co.  
 Det, 8th Tank Bn.

(left) Marines line up on the beach after exiting the assault amphibious vehicles during the Air and Sea Show at Fort Lauderdale Beach.



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marines perform a Special Insertion and Extraction (SPIE) demonstration during the show.



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Lance Cpl. Ben Greene sights in on a target before advancing forward.



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Assault amphibious vehicles make their way to the Fort Lauderdale beach.



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Combat swimmers hit the water after from CH-46 helicopters.



Lt. Col. David W. Litaker, commander, 4th LAR Bn., practices delivering deadly blows.

Sgt. Trent Kinsey

## Division learns new way to fight



Sgt. Trent Kinsey

Lt. Col. Joseph Molofsky, I-I, 4th Recon Bn., delivers a powerful kick to his training partner.

Sgt. Trent Kinsey

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

### NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla.

— Attendees were hooking and jabbing at the 4th Marine Division 2001 Warfighting Symposium, appropriately and certainly by design.

Seventy-four staff division members, inspector-instructors and unit commanders completed the first level of the new Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, during the conference held here, April 30 to May 4.

Maj. Gen. Jack Davis, commanding general, 4th Marine Division, mandated the training, feeling that he and his officers should be well equipped to lead the Marines of the 21st century.

“Leadership by example, in my mind, is the strongest form,” said Davis.

Davis set the ultimate example, partnering with his deputy, Brig. Gen. Drew Davis, for the training and testing.

Lt. Col. George Bristol, who directs and helped create the Marine Corps program, led the training. According to Bristol, the program is not a direct reflection of a specific martial arts style, but a better way to prepare Marines on the battlefield, both physically and mentally.

“These officers are taking time out to go back to that primal force that brought us to the Marine Corps,” said Bristol. “This training brings you right back to that.”

The training here consisted of five four-hour sessions during which the Marines learned proper falling techniques, body strikes, throws, and weap-



ons combat training. The Marines were then tested on the material covered, meeting the qualifications for a tan belt.

“The training gives them a better knowledge of the program,” said Davis. “It shows them what it is and, more importantly, what it isn’t.”

The Martial Arts program, which was introduced to the Marine Corps last fall, is a weapons-based close combat art that begins with the individual Marine’s basic weapon, the rifle and bayonet, and transitions from assault fire all the way to unarmed combat. This and a strong emphasis on mental and character discipline distinguish the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program from previous close combat systems. This program strives to develop the successful and ethical Marine warrior in a team framework. It will incorporate much of today’s current leadership, core value and ethics training with very lethal physical techniques to develop Marines who are able to meet the challenges of the entire spectrum of conflict.

The program has levels, or belts, starting with the tan belt then gray, green, brown and black. Marines will wear the belt they earn with the utility



Sgt. Oscar Davis, G-1, 4th MarDiv., performs the kill move of a headlock break on Sgt. Londra Graham, G-1, 4th MarDiv.



Lt. Col. Norm Robison, I-I, 4th Tank Bn., takes down Lt. Col. Ed Dunlap, I-I, 8th Tank Bn.

uniform in place of the web belt.

Davis’ goal is to have all of the Marines in the division, active duty and reserve, tan belt qualified by Sept. 2002.

“This is absolutely critical to our readiness and our preparedness to go to war,” said Davis.

The process of training instructors and instructor-trainers for all of the division units has already begun.

The 4th Marine Division, the largest division in the Marine Corps, is headquartered in New Orleans and has units at 106 sites nationwide.

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1st Lt. Jesse Sjoberg, assistant director, Marine Corps Martial Arts training, demonstrates a proper fighting stance.

# Cornerstone

## Marines offer security support in Albania

Cpl. Dave M. Winter

MarineForces Reserve, New Orleans

**TIRANA, Albania** – In the war-stricken Balkans, Marine reservists from 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines and 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, joined forces with Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and the U.S. Navy Seabees for Cornerstone 2001, an international engineering exercise here, from April through July.

The name “Cornerstone,” meaning the first building block of a structure, set the scope and mission for the exercise, which was to build a two-mile national highway. The highway will allow for unimpeded travel from north to south.

The exercise and construction of the road also serve as symbols of the new democratic government, created after the fall of communism in 1991.

“Albania is now confidently walking on the irreversible path of democracy,” said Albania President Rexhep

Meidani, during the opening ceremony for Cornerstone 2001. “Integration into Euro-Atlantic structures is the absolute priority of its policy.”

The Marines’ mission was to provide security for the personnel and millions of dollars worth of equipment at the construction site for all of the nations involved in the exercise.

Seven platoons of reserves provided two weeks of duty each. A two-day overlap between rotations for incoming company to be trained and briefed by the outgoing Marines enables a turnover where all the billets and positions are filled in an easy transition.

Taking part in international exercises often brings new experiences for many of the reservists.

“This is my first time out of the U.S.,” said Lance Cpl. Aaron Rogers, from Parkersburg, W.Va. “It’s good training here, very odd compared to our training we usually take part in. They (Albanians) live and train in a completely different environment.”

Maj. Matthew Day, Inspector-Instructor for Co. K, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines and the Force Protection Officer here, expressed the importance of serving a real-life mission and a great experience to get exposed to different cultures, and cultures of different militar-

ies.

“This is good for the Marines. They get some great experience and a lot more exposure than they would in a normal Annual Training,” said Day. “They get real-world experience.”

During the exercise, Marines had the opportunity to train with Albanian soldiers. During weapons training, the two forces swapped weapons at the rifle range Marines got to fire the AK-47 and the Albanians got to fire the M-16A2. Both forces had a great time and even competed in a shooting match.

The Marines also interacted with the Albanian soldiers while they stood post at the construction site. Many of the Marines took the opportunity to learn the native language during the long shifts they shared with the Albanian soldiers.

During each two-week tour the Marines also participated in a cross training exercise involving combat engineers, electricians, motor transport and infantry. The weapons and demolition training is held at the Albanian Commando Camp in Zheja, a few miles from the capital city of Tirana. While half of the forces provided security back at the construction site, the other half went through an enduring 13-hour weapons and high explosive training cycle led by Master Sgt. Matthew Patton, Headquarters Co., 4th Combat Engineer Bn.

“Overall, this was a great experience for the Marines. You have these reserve units that train extremely hard every drill, when they ask themselves, ‘when can I exercise what I know?’ Well, this is it,” said Cpl. William Kelberer, from Baltimore, Md.

CM



Lance Cpl. Kristopher Casper

A Marine mans his M-240G machine gun, while standing post during Cornerstone.

# Marines cross-train at Commando Camp

Cpl. Dave M. Winter

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**TIRANA, Albania** — Marine reserve combat engineers and infantrymen gained an appreciation for each other's mission and honed their combat skills in addition to providing security during Cornerstone 2001 here.

While half of the Marines manned the security posts, the other half participated in a 13-hour demolitions and weapons training cycle at the Albanian Commando Camp.

Master Sgt. Matthew Patton, Headquarters Company, 4th Combat Engineering Battalion, designed the training to take on the most difficult task first, demolition, then move to the training they're more familiar with, shooting M-16's. "By the time they get towards the end of the cycle they have 100 percent confidence in themselves and their weapons," he said.

First, the combat engineers trained the infantrymen on demolition and explosives used in battle. The Marines set off C-4 satchel charges, Composition B – Banelores and shape charges, TNT and Claymore mines.

Lance Cpl. Corey Bryant, a demo-

lition engineer from Chapmanville, W. Va., described his joint effort with the infantry Marines.

"We (the engineers) work together with the grunts a lot. Our role is to punch through the minefield, or whatever the obstacle may be, then they go in."

During the second portion, the infantrymen instructed the combat engineers on the weapons they use. The Marines fired M-16A2 rifles, SMAW shoulder launched rockets, M-240G machine guns, M-249 squad automatic weapons, and M-203 grenade launchers and threw M-67 fragmentation grenades.

The training concluded with a simulated night fire assault which gave both groups a chance to showcase their skills. The assault began with the engineers detonating a Claymore mine, then transitioned to the infantry firing multiple weapons at set targets on the range.



Cpl. Dave M. Winter

**Marines get experience working with C-4 during weapons training during Cornerstone.**

"The Marines got to use their weapons on burst, take part in a night fire assault and really see first hand what training should be like," said Patton. "We're here to train in the most realistic environment. I strongly believe that Marines react in combat as they are trained. We need to let the individual Marine perform in a realistic environment, on their own."

The training gave the reserve Marines time to adequately learn demolition and weapons used by the Marine Corps, something they don't get during their weekend drills.

"Back in the States we can't do all of this in one day. Everything we accomplished during the 13-hour cycle would have taken us three days," Bryant said.

Some Marines had to go straight from the training to their security post, but it was worth it.

"Although we were tired, this was the most motivational aspect of the exercise," said Lance Cpl. Lee Stuckey, of Montgomery, Ala. "We walk around on our security posts, do our job, but we're grunts. This extra training cycle is what we live for. It's candy to us."

CM



Lance Cpl. Kristopher W. Casper

**Marines practice tossing grenades while training at the Commando Camp.**

## 2/25 HONES DEFENSIVE TACTICS

Sgt. Sam Kille

1st Marine Corps Recruiting District

**WEST POINT, N.Y.** — While most military leaders would prefer to have the upper hand and engage in offensive battle, history has shown that the need for strong defensive measures is paramount to success.

Keeping with this philosophy, the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, Garden City, N.Y. honed their defensive skills during a battalion-level field exercise here, March 3.

“Practicing the defense is something we don’t do as often as we should,” said Lt. Col. Paul Maubert, commanding officer, 2nd Bn., 25th Marines. “Through this exercise, the Marines (of 2nd Battalion) will be better prepared.”

The first order of business for the Marines was setting up the command center and establishing rear area security. Tasked with this were Marines from Headquarters and Service Company, filling a role they are rarely given during peacetime.

“Being an administration clerk, I usually sit behind a desk and hardly get the chance to go to the field,” said Lance Cpl. Flavio Rivera-Lopez, of Jackson Heights, N.Y. “I’m really glad we had the opportunity to do this because you never know when we might be faced with a real-life situation like this.”

While the H&S Marines dug fighting holes and set up a perimeter, the battalion’s line companies spread themselves throughout the rolling hills and rocky terrain in search of any enemy action. The terrain, coupled with nearly a half foot of snow, created some logistical problems but was beneficial to the training.

“A lot of coordination goes into building defenses, and the weather can be a factor,” said Maj. Ralph A. Douglas, operations officer, 2nd Bn., 25th Marines. “We had a few challenges (the battalion had planned to use trucks to spread its Marines out farther but could

not due to deep snow in some areas). However, we were able to adapt and improvise.”

Like the saying goes, “This is just another clime and place,” added Douglas. “This battalion has a lot of experience in this environment and training hasn’t been hampered yet.”

Throughout the day and into the night, enemy aggressors, played by members of Weapons Co.’s Dragon Platoon, challenged the Marines on patrol. As the aggressors were sighted, the Marines radioed into the command center and determined a course of action. If plausible, the Marines would either engage the aggressors in a firefight or call for indirect fire support, which was provided by Weapons Co.’s 81 mm. mortars.

“We were the battalion commander’s hip-pocket artillery,” said Lance Cpl. Michael L. Cassidy, 2nd Bn., 25th Marines. “Wherever they needed rounds, we put them there.”

In addition to the squad- and company-sized infantry tactics practiced during the field exercise, the battalion received a healthy dose of nuclear, biological, and chemical defense training. During several engagements, the aggressors used CS gas in their attacks.

“We haven’t been doing enough NBC training,” said Maubert. “I really wanted to intensify that level of training during this exercise.”

To increase the level of NBC training, Marines, whenever attacked, were tasked with applying the proper measures to defend themselves, to properly report the attacks, and to use NBC monitoring teams to contain the attacks.

When the long, cold day was over, the Marines were very happy to thaw



Sgt. Sam Kille

**Lance Cpl. Rayllin R. Suero (left) and Lance Cpl. Michael L. Cassidy, 2nd Bn., 25th Marines prepare their 81 mm. mortar for firing.**

out, but more importantly they were grateful for the experience.

“This was really great training,” said Lance Cpl. Rayllin R. Suero, 2nd Bn., 25th Marines. “Not only do we learn a lot doing this, but it makes it even more exciting to come back each month and do it all over again with your fellow Marines.”

Overall, Maubert was extremely satisfied with the job done by his Marines.

“Because we only do this once a month, every minute counts,” said Maubert. “This exercise was very well thought out and was a brilliant learning experience. West Point offered us the opportunity to train in a steep, heavily wooded area that favored the defense. It was perfect infantry country. I couldn’t have asked for more.”

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# TOW Marines train for cold weather

Lt. Col. G. W. Barnes

TOW Plt. 25th Marines, Chicopee, Mass

## CHARLEMONT, Mass. —

The Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided-missile platoon from 25th Marines traveled north to the Berkshire Mountains here to conduct cold weather training exercises February 9-11.

Upon arrival, the three sections of Marines entered their evening bivouac sites by utilizing track discipline in the snow covered landscape, making one set of tracks into their site, and one set of tracks out.

They then set up tents and caught some sleep, for they knew that they would be up early to begin conducting various cold weather related training.

The Marines found themselves facing a vast array of weather, as the evening temperatures rose to the 40-degree mark, but then slowly dropped as a cold rain began to fall during the early morning hours.

Dawn broke with the sun shining brightly, cold winds gusting, and a continuation of dropping temperatures. This pattern continued throughout the day as their training progressed. After a breakfast of cold weather rations, and “hot wets”, the Marines put on their skis and

moved out in their sections to different locations on the mountain to begin their training for the day.

The first section moved to an assembly area and prepared to move to a predetermined location where they would be setting up their weapons system on the ground mount tripod overlooking the valley below. This group of Marines soon found out the difficulties faced when pulling an ahkio sled loaded with a weapons system such as this, uphill to a firing position. After traversing difficult terrain, security was established while a team of Marines set up the weapons system and began to draw their fire plan sketch of the valley below.

Further discussion on the establishment of defensive positions for the TOW then took place.

While these Marines learned the hard lessons of movement in a cold, windy, harsh environment, another section of the platoon received a class on improvised emergency shelters and cold weather survival techniques.

Following this class, an appropriate location was established in the tree line, and Marines began constructing their shelters. The Marines took extra care in the building of these shelters, as

they would find themselves spending the night in them.

That evening, the leathernecks were treated to a hot pasta dinner, hosted by the owners of the ski area, before movement back under a cold, windy, dark sky, into the tree line, and their shelters for the night.

The extremely cold temperatures and winds continued to make these Marines realize just how important the cold weather clothing and gear they had was to their survival in conditions such as these.

One final training evolution awaited them, as they staged their gear, and formed up for a chair lift ride to the very top of the mountain, where they were dropped off, and executed a long downhill traverse on their military cross country skis to the valley below.

Although the Marines from TOW Platoon are used to these cold New England winters, they always gain a new perspective and respect for Mother Nature, when they find themselves spending extended periods of time out in the “elements” as a Marine, training for whatever may come their way.

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Photo Courtesy of Btry. A, 1st Bn., 14th Marines

## More than Howitzer fire

Marines from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 14th Marines set up a machine gun pit for the M2 .50 cal machine gun during training to sharpen skills at Fort Carson, Colo.

During the exercise the Marines not only trained on their gunnery skills but also honed their basic warrior training skills. They had the opportunity to practice firing crew served weapons, patrolling and land navigation.

# CORPS HELPS FIREFIGHTER BLAZE PATH TO SUCCESS

Sgt. James M. Goodwin

RS Louisville, Ky.

## MARINE CORPS RECRUITING STATION LOUISVILLE, Ky.

– “Driven” is how a fellow firefighter describes Sgt. Christopher Kitchen.

His Marine Corps recruiter calls him “focused.” Those who know Kitchen describe him as goal-oriented, always conquering life’s little challenges and working towards his goal of a career in law enforcement.

Kitchen, a Marine Corps reservist and volunteer firefighter, describes himself as a “busy, yet self-gratifying” person.

As a Marine Corps recruiter’s aide in Clarksville, Ind., Kitchen spends his days talking to high school students, making phone calls and assisting recruiters. Several nights a week he indulges in games of indoor soccer.

But perhaps the most demanding part of the 26-year-old’s life occurs the moment his pager goes off – the pager issued to him by the Highview Fire Department in Louisville, where he’s been a volunteer firefighter for nearly two years.

“It’s an adrenaline rush,” said Kitchen. “When you run into a house that’s burning to the ground and you’re the first man to the door and you’re staring the beast in the face, it’s definitely a rush.”

But firefighting is both a passion and a duty for Kitchen. Despite the often long hours and extensive imminent danger involved, Kitchen doesn’t think about the risks involved, a trait he attributes to his Marine Corps training.

“I think if I worried about my life on every fire run, it would play a role in how effective I am (as a firefighter),” said Kitchen.

When a call comes in, it’s off to the firehouse, on with his gear, and out



James M. Goodwin

**Sgt. Christopher Kitchen has been on call as a Highview volunteer firefighter for two years. The 26-year-old is currently pursuing a career in law enforcement and says the Marine Corps is helping him obtain his goals.**

to the scene on a fire truck.

Kitchen recalls one fire call that required his services until 3 a.m. Immediately afterwards, he and his fellow firefighters were called to action again, this time until 7 a.m. By 8 a.m., it was off to work, followed by his Emergency Medical Technician course that night at 6.

“It’s (firefighting) like anything else,” said Kitchen. “We have a job to do, we go and we do it.”

On the road to becoming a police officer, Kitchen said the Corps has given him the training necessary to handle firefighting. In turn, firefighting should give him the experience he needs for law enforcement.

“When he sets his mind to something, he does it,” explained fellow firefighter Kevin Morris. “He can talk his way through anything.” And good communication skills is a must have for a successful fireman, said Morris, a nine-year firefighter.

Morris wasn’t the only person to recognize Kitchen’s “go get ‘em” attitude. Staff Sgt. Bruce Gentry, who recruited Kitchen into the Marine Corps in 1992, also recognized the former-Male High School student’s drive to excel.

“I talked to him for five minutes and tried to scare him about the Marine Corps to see if he really wanted to be a Marine,” said Gentry, who is now Kitchen’s noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

“He called me back a couple of days later wanting to know when he could join.”

Kitchen recalled one specific time when his Marine Corps training assisted him with his work during a fire run.

Inside a burning, smoke-filled home, Kitchen and several other firefighters were caught without their masks on and were not able to breath. That’s when his gas chamber training

from boot camp kicked in, he said.

"I was able to control myself, get my bearings and continue with my mission," said Kitchen. "We (Marines) don't need a different mind frame to handle a job like this. We've always had a different mind frame anyways. We have that (Marine Corps) training."

But while firefighting has added to his life, Kitchen said it hasn't changed it, or his outlook on life.

"It's added a little bit more adventure, a little more excitement," he said. "They (firefighters) are the closest thing to a family you'll find, just like the Marine Corps. The sacrifices these guys make out here are unreal."

Adventure. Excitement. Sacrifice. All part of the job for Kitchen, who said he's always been attracted to positions where he could help other people. Now as an Emergency Medical Technician-qualified firefighter, he's able to help those in need even more.

Hopefully, his skills will be needed on the Jefferson County Police Department in Louisville, where he's currently seeking employment, said Kitchen.

"You've got to have the drive, the will to do this," said Morris, who has always been impressed with Kitchen's drive to succeed. "Otherwise, you could get someone killed. He (Kitchen) is driven."

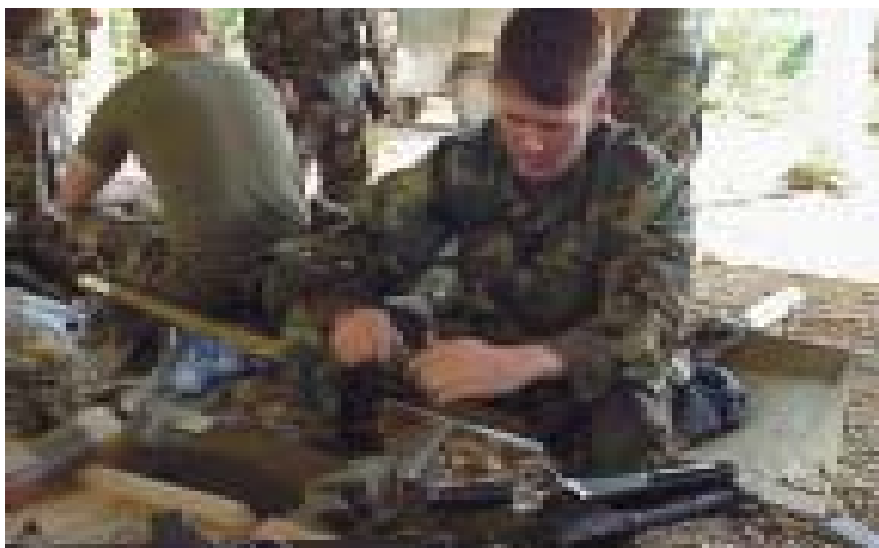
Everyone should have goals, but achieving them, according to Kitchen, all depends on the individual. The Marine Corps has helped Kitchen reach his goals.

"The Marine Corps has helped me grow up," he said.

According to author Zig Ziglar, "desire is the the great equalizer." For Kitchen, this couldn't be more true.

"You have to know what you want to do in life, and go for it," he said. "No matter how many doors get slammed in your face, no matter how many brick walls you run into, focus on your goal, and you'll achieve them."

CM



Lance Cpl. Kristopher Casper

Lance Cpl. Lee Stuckey cleans his M-240G machine gun during some downtime at Cornerstone.

## You know Stuckey?

### Lance corporal sets example for other Marines during Cornerstone 2001

Cpl. Dave M. Winter  
Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**TIRANA, Albania** – Lance Cpl. Lee Stuckey, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, Montgomery, Ala., made a name for himself here during his two-week duty in support of Cornerstone 2001.

While Stuckey stood post, he learned as much of the local language as he could from Albanian soldiers, he was standing watch with.

"When I first arrived in the country, I had no personal interest or ambition to learn the language. But after the first six hours on post, being the only english speaking person, I thought it would be a good idea," Stuckey explained. "It was beneficial to me in my current situation. It allowed me to do my job better because

I could interact with the Albanian soldiers and anyone who came through the gate." When Stuckey would approach a car at his post and begin speaking Albanian, there were a lot of surprised faces.

As he describes it, his "crash course," began with the Albanian soldiers giving him tests with simple things like yes, no, hand, foot and other words. After he learned those, they taught him verbs and phrases that pertained to the post. Soon everyone was talking about the Marine who could speak Albanian.

The good report on Stuckey, a junior at Auburn University, majoring in business, didn't stop there. During the 13-hour demolition and weapons training, he continued to be motivated and train at 100 percent. "Although we were tired, this was the most motivational aspect of the exercise," Stuckey said.

Stuckey has applied for Officer Candidates School and has hopes of continuing his Marine Corps career.

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# MARINE CHASES DREAM AS MUSICIAN

Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**NEW ORLEANS** — Sgt. Victor Sims leads a life some people may only dream about. The adjutant chief for Headquarters Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve, and single parent of two daughters, ages three and four, is also an up-and-coming musician with the “No Jack Hittaz” rap group.

Sims, who joined the Marine Corps in 1995, has been working towards his dream of becoming a rapper for more than nine years.

After doing four years of active duty at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., Sims and his two daughters returned home to New Orleans where he began a tour as an active reservist and started concentrating on making it in the music business.

“I started to rap for fun. At the time, it was the thing to do,” said Sims. “When people were enjoying my music and I started to get music offers, I began to get serious about it.”

In February, Sims signed with his first record label, No Jack Music Group Inc., and began work on a new album

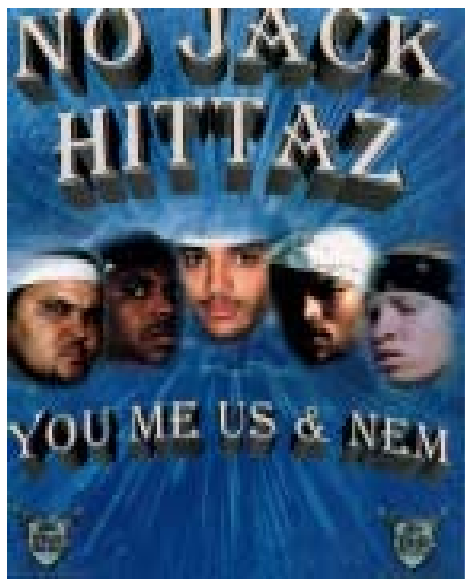


Photo courtesy of Sgt. Victor Sims

**Sgt. Victor Sims (center) is pursuing his dream to become a famous rapper.**



Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

**Sgt. Victor Sims works as adjutant chief for Headquarters Bn., MarForRes.**

for release with “No Jack Hittaz,” which was formed by the label.

“I felt comfortable with this record label, which made it easier for me to sign with them,” said Sims. “In the past I had problems with management. That was the biggest obstacle I’ve ever had to overcome. But, despite whatever obstacles may come my way, I still continue.”

To help him continue on, Sims not only looks for support from his family, he also receives helping hands from some of his fellow Marines.

“I’m always willing to help Sims, whether its with his family or music, because he has a lot of talent and determination,” said Sgt. Nickolas M. Cornell, S-2 clerk, Headquarters Bn., MarForRes.

“Choosing the active reserve program made it easier for me to be with my family and people who could support me as a single parent,” said Sims. “The reserves also made it easier for me to pursue my dreams.”

With his motivated attitude, Sims is able to convince fellow Marines he can do anything. “I think he’s capable of doing anything he puts his mind to,” said Sgt. James P. Virgil, pay and promotions chief, Headquarters Bn., MarForRes. “If he can be a single parent of two, he can do anything.”

“As a Marine, Sims makes any situation a good situation. He finds positive in negative things and he’s fun to be around,” added Virgil.

Sims’ music goals exceed beyond the group.

“I’m working on a solo project now. Eventually, I want my music to open doors to television for me,” said Sims.

It is this same determination that allows Sims to face challenges that may come his way. “If you have goals, strive to achieve them. Don’t give up because things won’t happen overnight,” encouraged Sims.

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# New location aides in reserve recruiting

Staff Sgt. Skip Osborne

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif

## MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—

Transitional recruiters here hope their new satellite office in Area 52 at the northern end of the base will have a significant impact on their ability to recruit Marines who choose to leave active duty after finishing their first enlistment.

“The other office is located in the top of a warehouse in the 22 Area. It’s in a place that even people who work there have trouble finding,” said Gunnery Sgt. Michael C. Slaughter, transitional recruiter. “Here, we’re centrally located, where it’s convenient for transitioning Marines to come in and get the information they need, and thankfully we’re easy to find.”

“It’s going to help our recruiting effort ten-fold, and ultimately we’re going to reach a bigger audience,” said Slaughter.

According to Maj. Paul Davis, officer-in-charge, Marine Forces Reserve, Transitional Recruiting Center West, what the recruiters want to do is educate Marines. “What we would like to do is make sure they are aware of the opportunities, benefits, options, and obligations of service in the reserve component,” said Davis.

In addition, the reserves help outgoing Marines maintain ties to the Corps, easing the tension Marines may feel when they separate from active service.

“For Marines who are about to transition out of the Corps there may be a lot of stress involved, and many

changes happening in their lives, especially if they’re married,” said Davis. “By staying connected to the Corps through the reserves, a lot of that stress can be reduced.”

An added bonus to the new office is that it’s co-located with the School of Infantry Career Planner’s office, so when SOI Marines are doing their final check out they can’t help but pass by the recruiter when they’re leaving.

“I sit in an office with the Career Planner for the 52 Area and that’s a good thing, because when Marines come in to see him and they say ‘sorry you can’t help me, I’m done with active duty,’ they have to pass my desk on the way out the door. That’s when I assert myself, get them to stop, and let them know about the reserves. I don’t body tackle anyone or anything, I just let them know what’s going on and give them some more information to think about on their way out the door,” said Davis.

The location of the new site also means Marines from the northern end of Camp Pendleton don’t have to make a trip to mainside to talk to a transitional recruiter.

For many Marines, the reserves can be a good opportunity and a solution to some of the transi-

tion concerns they may have, said Davis.

The reserve offers Marines many opportunities for promotion and even a retirement at age 60. It also offers reservists opportunities to go “active duty” for short periods of time, determined by the needs of the Corps. In addition they can apply for the Active Reserve program, which may allow reservists an active-duty career.



Staff Sgt. Skip Osborne

**Gunnery Sgt. Michael C. Slaughter, a transitional recruiter, speaks to a group of Marines about life in the reserves.**

That possibility of serving in the AR program is one of the many reasons Col. Dennis Judge, commanding officer, School of Infantry, was enthusiastic about assisting in the opening of the satellite office.

“This is a good deal for SOI because we get to try to retain Marines on the Active Reserve program,” said Judge. “I don’t want all the training and experience those Marines have to be wasted.”

Transitional recruiters can help Marines who would like to stay in the Corps, but can’t because of lack of job opportunities or keen competition, find a place in the reserves.

“I think we need to help the force out,” said Judge. “It’s in our own interest to try to retain the best and most qualified people, whether they stay in on active duty or go into the reserves.”

For more information on the Marine Corps Reserve, call Gunnery Sgt. Slaughter at (760) 725-7161 or e-mail him at [slaughtermc@mfr.pendleton.usmc.mil](mailto:slaughtermc@mfr.pendleton.usmc.mil).



**“This is a good deal for SOI because we get to try to retain Marines on the Active Reserve program. I don’t want all the training and experience those Marines have to be wasted.”**

**—Col. Dennis Judge**



Lance Cpl. Scott Roxberry, field radio operator, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines, tests his gear during exercise Rolling Thunder.

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**P**HILADELPHIA — One weekend a month and two weeks out of the year Lance Cpl. Scott Roxberry, field radio operator, Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines can be found setting up the antenna farm, standing radio watch and acting as the platoon sergeant during training exercises.

He has been a field radio operator for more than three years. After all his communications gear is put away and he returns to his civilian job servicing and repairing cellular phones, Roxberry never stops being a Marine.

"I take a lot of things I learned in the Marines back to my civilian job," said Roxberry. "The leadership skills I've developed as a Marine recently helped me get promoted at work."

Roxberry's Marine Corps career began four years ago when he was 21 years old. After high school, he was just kind of hanging around doing nothing. Then he had a child, and needed some direction in his life.

"My dad had been a Marine, so I went and signed up," said Roxberry. "I joined the reserves because I wanted to be home and closer to my daughter, Madelyne, but still serve my country," he added.

After basic training and Marine Combat Training, Roxberry went to field radio operator's school then reported to Headquarters Btry.

"I have known Roxberry for a while and he is definitely one outstanding Marine," said Lance Cpl. Terrell McCain, field radio operator, Headquarters Btry., 3rd Bn., 14th Marines. "He is highly motivated and an excellent example for other Marines."



"Joining the Marines was good for me. It has really settled me down and made me more focused on what I want out of life."

*-Lance Cpl. Scott Roxberry*

Because of his high level of motivation and leadership ability, Roxberry was called upon to fill in as the platoon sergeant for communications platoon during exercise Rolling Thunder, an artillery live-fire exercise run by 10th Marines, an active duty artillery regiment from Camp Lejeune, N.C.

During Rolling Thunder, he had an opportunity to sharpen his leadership abilities. He was in charge, and had to keep accountability of his Marines and weapons. He had to make duty rosters and post radio watches. "It was definitely a great experience for me," said Roxberry.

"Joining the Marines was good for me. It has really settled me down and made me more focused on what I want out of life," he added.

Now, when he goes to work he uses the confidence he learned to be more aggressive and take charge. "If I see something at work that needs to be done, I make sure it gets done. Before I would have probably waited around for someone to tell me what to do. Not any more," Roxberry said.

Roxberry also applies his Marine skills to coaching his daughter's neighborhood soccer team. "I really like working with the community," said Roxberry. "It gives me the chance to serve my country in a different way than with the Marines."

Whether in the field, at work, or in his community, Roxberry takes the things he has learned in the Marine Corps and applies them to his life. By doing this he has bettered himself and his family.

"I am definitely going to reenlist when my current contract is up," said Roxberry. "I just love being a Marine."



# Best of both worlds

## Reservist succeeds in military, civilian careers

Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**BALTIMORE** — Being a Marine, a contractor for Defense Systems, Litton PRC, and a personal trainer can seem like a busy schedule. But for 2nd Lt. Leilani C. Eleccion, adjutant, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, here, being occupied with so much is nothing she can't handle.

Eleccion, a former corporal, enlisted in the Corps three years ago as an administration clerk for 4th CEB.

When asked why she choose the Marine Corps reserve, Eleccion responded, "I wanted to pursue a career in the civilian world and I wanted a challenge. You get the best of both worlds as a reservist."

Although Eleccion wears many hats, she is still able to have a balanced life.

"Anybody can do it. It takes time management, everything I do is planned," said Eleccion.

With her motivated attitude, Eleccion is able to present herself as a positive role model for her fellow Marines.



Photo courtesy of 4th Combat Engineer Bn.

**2nd Lt. Leilani C. Eleccion, as a contractor for Defense Systems, Litton PRC.**

"A lot of male Marines want to be like her. She is always motivated, a PT (physical training) fanatic and can handle anything that comes her way."

— Staff Sgt. Victor M. Szalankiewicz



Photo courtesy of 4th Combat Engineer Bn.

**2nd Lt. Leilani C. Eleccion gets her lieutenant bars pinned on by her mother and LtCol. Mark L. Haskett, commanding officer, 4th CEB, at the Marine War Memorial.**

"A lot of male Marines want to be like her," said Staff Sgt. Victor M. Szalankiewicz, construction chief, 4th Combat Engineer Bn. "She is always motivated, a PT (physical training) fanatic and can handle anything that comes her way."

While Marine Corps awards don't matter to Eleccion, she receives a reward of self-satisfaction for her hard work.

"Every moment is productive. It gives me a sense of achievement and well-being," said Eleccion.

To help succeed in life and as a Marine, Eleccion lived by three rules.



Photo courtesy of 4th Combat Engineer Bn.

**2nd Lt. Leilani C. Eleccion swears in after being commissioned.**

"I used my resources, pursued my goals and didn't let people discourage me," said Eleccion.

CM



Then 2nd Lt. Alec J. Bodenweiser (right) pictured on the cover of LIFE magazine Feb. 23, 1968.

Photo Courtesy of H&S Co., 6th Engineer Support Bn.

## Former captain awarded for actions in Vietnam

Lt. Col. Michael V. Barnes

H&S Co., 6th Engineer Support Bn.

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — The Marines of Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Portland, Ore., conducted a ceremony, February 11, to award the Silver Star Medal to former Marine Capt. Alec J. Bodenweiser. The award was in recognition of Bodenweiser's heroic actions 33 years prior in the jungles of Vietnam.

An Oregon Congresswoman and Earle Breeding, a former Marine colonel and Bodenweiser's company commander during the action, presented the award.

The Silver Star Medal was a result of an engagement taking place February 5, 1968, on an isolated hilltop near the Khe Sanh Combat Base. Then 2nd

Lt. Bodenweiser, a platoon commander with Co. E, 26th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, had been given the mission to hold Hill 861-A.

This piece of terrain was critical as the Vietnamese struggled to tighten their ring of control, reminiscent of Dien Bien Phu, around the Combat Base. Should the hill fall into enemy hands, it would provide them a distinct vantage point from which to deliver highly accurate artillery, rocket, and mortar fire into Khe Sanh.

On the evening of the fifth, a North Vietnamese Regular Army Battalion launched a massive attack, supported with intense and accurate artillery and mortar fire against the Marines of Co. E.

As the battle raged on for two hours, enemy sappers succeeded in

breaching the company's perimeter, and the savage combat quickly became hand to hand.

With the situation quickly becoming desperate, ammunition beginning to run low, and control of the hill wavering in the balance, Bodenweiser orchestrated an extraordinary action, which echoed that of Joshua Chamberlain at the Battle of Gettysburg.

On a night that Col. Breeding described as being so dark you could not see a white handkerchief waved in front of your face, Bodenweiser rallied the remnants of two platoons.

He gave the command to fix bayonets and led a charge that drove the numerically superior enemy force from Hill 861-A.

This bold, decisive, and desperate action not only drove the enemy from



the hilltop, but broke the back of the attack, as the enemy battalion withdrew.

Shortly after the battle, both Bodenweiser and Breeding were assigned to different units, but not before then Capt. Breeding had submitted several award recommendations from that night to include a Silver Star for Bodenweiser. Subsequently, in the chaos of the Tet Offense and the destruction of some headquarters facilities at Khe Sanh, the recommendations were never processed.

It was only during a recent meeting between the two that Breeding discovered that Bodenweiser's leadership and courageous actions on that fateful night had not been appropriately recognized. Unknown to Bodenweiser, Breeding initiated the process for a second time, which successfully led to the award's approval.

The ceremony at the Swan Island Reserve Center was a memorable and emotional event in many ways. Several Marines who had served with Bodenweiser were present, as well as his wife, mother, and several family members. Marines from the various organizations composing the Portland Marine Corps Coordinating Council were on hand in strength, as well as several local dignitaries. Regional newspapers and television networks covered the event.

Ironically, Bodenweiser had served as a member of Sixth Engineer Support Battalion both before and following his service in Vietnam. Speaking after the presentation, an obviously humbled and glassy eyed Bodenweiser was quick to accredit the courage and selfless devotion of the exceptional Marines of Co. E with being the decisive factor in the successful defense of 861-A.

Since leaving the Marine Corps, Bodenweiser has continued in the service of his country and fellow veterans, as a veteran's employment specialist with the state of Oregon.



## Hero awarded 32 years later

"I was just one they could document. It's good in a way, it brings the focus on the Vietnam Veterans. People need to know they were Heroes. I think this will give recognition to all of them in some minor way. That would be my goal."

— James S. Lockhart

**Capt. J. B. Parker**

General Support Ammunition Plt., Topeka, Kan.

**TOPEKA, Kan.** — Thirty-two years after fighting in the jungles of Vietnam, former Marine James S. Lockhart was honored with the Silver Star Medal.

Lockhart, a Topeka native, received the medal at a special ceremony Feb. 3, at the Marine Corps Reserve Center here. Attending the ceremony were Lockhart's family, retired Marine Brig. Gen. (Wild) Bill Weise, representatives from the offices of Governor Graves and Senator Pat Roberts, more than 100 guests and the Marines of General Support Ammunition Platoon.

As a lance corporal, Lockhart served as a landing vehicle tracked driver, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines in Vietnam. His actions to save the life of a fellow Marine during a firefight earned him the coveted medal.

At the ceremony, Lockhart said he felt humbled about receiving the Silver Star.

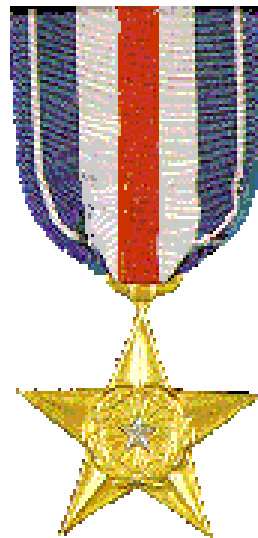
"I was just one they could document," he said. "It's good in a way, it brings the focus on the Vietnam Veterans. People need to know they were heroes. I think this will give recognition to all of them in some minor way. That would be my goal."

At a Marine reunion four years ago in Albany, Ga., some of Lockhart's platoon buddies recalled the amphibious vehicle operator's

heroism and felt he should be recognized. Tom Williams, Lockhart's friend, spent four years trying to get all the information together.

He sent the information to Weise, Lockhart's battalion commander during the Vietnam War, who wrote up the citation for Lockhart to receive the medal.

"Lockhart was incredibly brave; it was a miracle he made it," Weise said. "Lockhart exposed himself to enemy fire by crawling out onto the ramp to rescue an injured Marine. He put his own welfare last and risked his life to save a fellow Marine. It's an unselfish, brave kind of man that makes the Marine Corps what it is. I think he, to me, exemplifies everything fine about being a Marine."



# RSU acts as total force vehicle for training, mobilization

Sgt. Michael Hjelmstad

HQMC Public Affairs

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — The Commandant's Marine Corps Strategy 21 emphasizes an objective to make America's Marines, win our nation's battles, and create quality citizens. One of the aims listed in this guidance is to strengthen and exercise integrated active and reserve training plans to enhance total force mobilization readiness.

The Reserve Support Unit here enhances total force capability by providing administrative, logistical, and training support to the Marine Corps and other reservists nationwide. In fiscal year 2000, RSU Camp Pendleton hosted over 185 units consisting of 18,000 personnel with a 15 to 25 percent increase anticipated for 2001.

"The primary mission of this base is to train Marines, coequally reserve and active duty," said Maj. Gen. Edward Hanlon Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. "The number of Marines going through the Reserve Support Unit is impressive."

"The RSU Camp Pendleton is Hanlon's total force vehicle for supporting and training all services for war and operations short of war," said Col. Gary I. Wilson, commanding officer, RSU.

The RSU provides a great deal of training support to reservists who live and work in the surrounding area and throughout the United States. Local service members often become ambassadors for Camp Pendleton, according to Wilson.

Reserve and active units from all services use the facility for weekend and annual training. The newest training facility, the Camp Pendleton Joint Reserve Intelligence Center, is an intelligence range open to all reserve components. The JRIC is currently averaging



Sgt. Michael Hjelmstad

**Marine reservists arrive at Camp Talega for training via CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters.**

100 to 200 personnel per month for training and that number is projected to double in 2001.

The RSU is capable of providing billeting for up to 800 personnel as well as storage and warehouse space for drilling and active units. The RSU staff schedules and coordinates ranges so units can concentrate on training and field operations.

One of the primary missions of the RSU is to ensure that units are prepared for mobilization. Upon mobilization, RSU Camp Pendleton becomes the central staging and training area for over 17,000 inactive ready reservists west of the Mississippi.

Practicing for mobilization means reserve units participate in annual operations like Amphibious Orientation Training and Exercise Resolute Warrior. Each year a reserve regiment, with attachments from across the nation, participates in AOT on Camp Pendleton. Exercise Resolute Warrior was conducted aboard Camp Pendleton in 2000 and included over 800 Marine reservists. The RSU provided administrative and logistical support for these and many other operations.

The community uses the RSU

through such organizations as the Boy Scouts, local law enforcement and fire fighting agencies. The RSU also provides training support for the Young Marines, Sea Cadets, and the Civil Air Patrol. The RSU ensures these groups use the base in a safe, effective and efficient manner. The RSU, sometimes referred to as 'the far reaches of the empire,' is located at Camp Talega, the northernmost site of Camp Pendleton. Talega consists of 77 buildings that provide an expeditionary support base with easy access to many training ranges, including 59 live-fire ranges, four major-landing beaches, 26 landing zones, 11 drop zones, three combat towns, and an urban training facility. "It is one of the premier joint training facilities in the United States," said Wilson.

The core responsibilities of the RSU are to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of peacetime training and to support mobilization and demobilization as needed. The RSU is the total force integrator, keeping the operating forces and reserve commands tied together for mobilization.



# Leaders must reinforce Marines' core values

Master Sgt. Karl Nugent

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.

A Marine leader who makes his troops feel like members of an elite team is more likely to find that his charges adhere to the core values instilled in them at boot camp.

Those junior Marines who feel as if they are a part of something special and stick to their core values are less likely to go astray.

The number of violations I see on the military police blotter each morning is mind-boggling. The offenses include larceny, assault, domestic disturbances, alcohol-related incidents, suicidal gestures, reckless driving, not wearing seat belts and playing loud music. This definitely is not Marine conduct.

So where did these Marines go wrong? What can we do to keep them on the straight and narrow? We first must identify what makes us Marines and then continue to reinforce those traits among our subordinates.

What leads the Corps is our desire to be part of the finest military organization in the country. We have the longest boot camp and toughest physical standards.

Recruits are lured by the idea of going through the most challenging series of events they ever will undertake. For many of us, it was our sheer desire to be Marines that make us lean back

and strut, walk the miles under our packs, run the distances in formation and study the required material.

The feeling of pride and sense of accomplishment that come at the end of recruit training almost connate be matched once a Marine reaches the fleet.

But bringing our Marines together for similar tests and bonding experiences encourages them to take their core values to heart.

Prior to graduating from the Summer Mountain Leaders Course at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., we took a trip to Mount Shasta in Northern California. We carried on our backs what we needed to survive for five days. I think my share was 125 pounds of the team's gear.

We walked from around 6,000 to 10,000 feet, and it took every ounce of my strength and will to reach base camp. After a day or two of acclimatization, we went to the summit. Two-and-a-half hours and more than 4,000 feet later, we reached the top.

I arrived at the summit under my own power and stood on what felt like the top of the world.

I am sure for many recruits, boot camp is a similar testing ground, and, upon graduation, they too feel as if they've reached the top of the mountain.

Unfortunately, this is just the beginning, and life in the fleet has its own demands.

A Marine's first few days and

months after arriving in the fleet are the critical period when his new command environment has a significant impact.

For better or worse, Marines are influenced most by the reception they get when they enter the fleet and by Marine leaders closest to them.

It's not a good idea to send a Marine with a track record of substandard performance to lead new Marine through the check-in process. We need to protect the image of Marine Corps way of life.

When a Marine leader takes the time to welcome new devil dogs aboard, earn their respect and make them feel as if they're an integral part of the section or team, those new Marines want to jump in and do their part right off the bat.

Far too often, new Marines join a unit with the expectation of being part of a close-kin team, only to find themselves merely showing up for work, completing daily tasks and returning to the barracks, ignored by their leaders.

But there are tool for Marine leaders to use to bring Marines closer together. Counseling, physical-training sessions, organized athletics, unit get-togethers and formations are great examples, but the leader first must commit to making time for team-building activities.

Every Marine is an investment in our future. We let too many good Marines leave because they don't feel as if they're a part of something special.

## Eatin' dirt

Staff Sgt. Zarre K. Rodrigues, 4th Landing Support Bn., Fort Lewis Wash., hits the deck after being tossed by Cpl. Bryant K. Markowicz, 3rd Bn., 24th Marines, Detroit Mich., during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Training Instructors Course at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. During the course Marines from various commands throughout Marine Forces Reserve became certified to teach classes on the new martial arts.

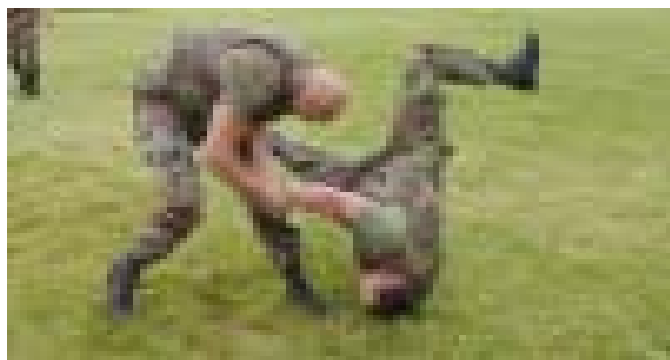
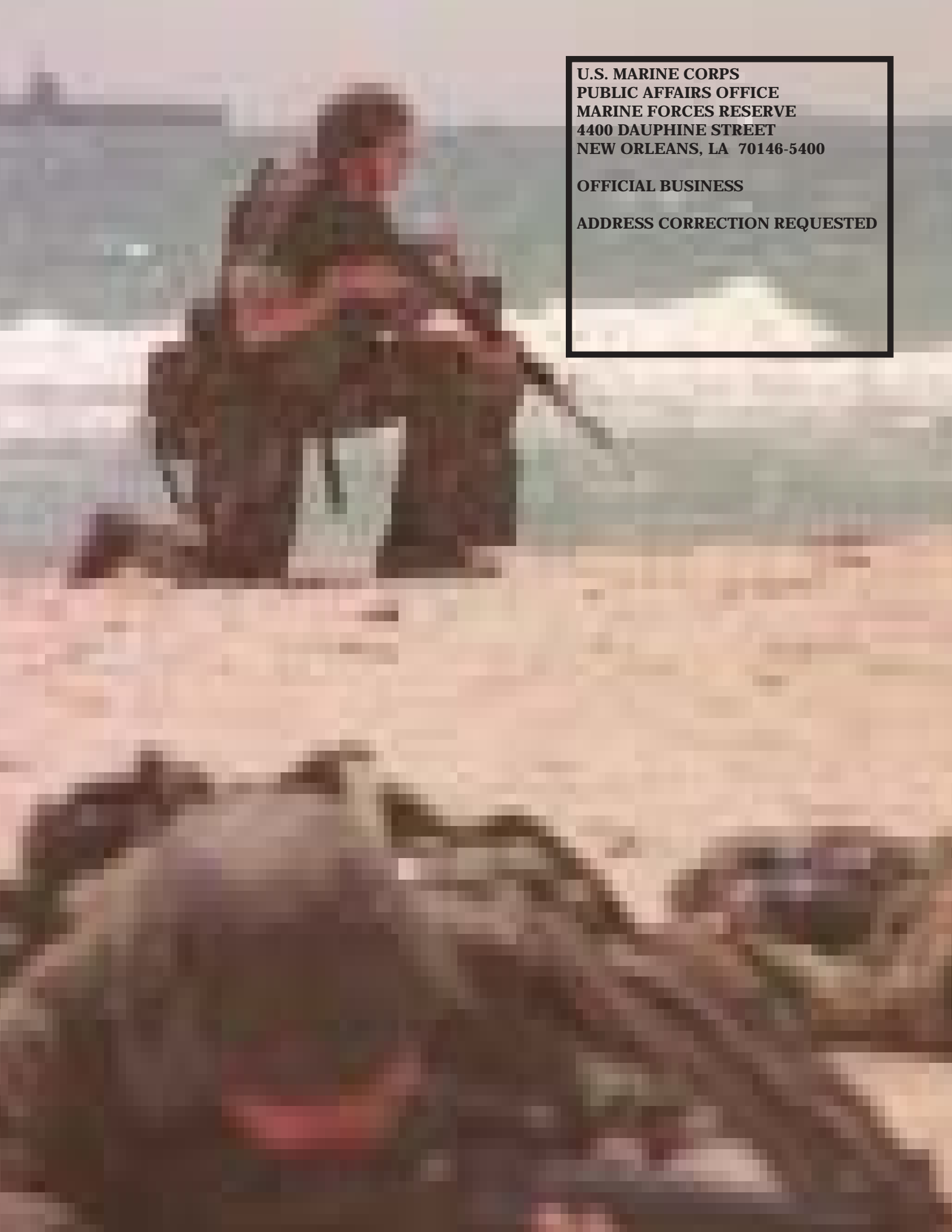


Photo courtesy of Martial Arts Instructors Course



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